

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
2 a user authentication section that acquires ID information to
3 identify each user from among a plurality of users, and performs user
4 authentication based on said ID information;
5 an operation mode setting section that can selectively set,
6 as an operation mode that sets a work environment for operation inputs,
7 between an personal operation mode to permit each user to operate
8 individually and a public operation mode to permit an indefinite number
9 of users to operate; and
10 a mode switching section that, when a user is authenticated
11 in said user authentication section, switches said operation mode
12 from said public operation mode into said personal operation mode
13 for the authenticated user.
- 1 2. The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 said mode switching section switches said operation mode from said
3 personal operation mode into said public operation mode based on a
4 prescribed condition with the state that a current operation mode
5 is set to said personal operation mode.
- 1 3. The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 when ID information is not acquired for a period of time longer than
3 a predetermined time in said user authentication section, said mode
4 switching section switches said operation mode from said personal
5 operation mode into said public operation mode with the state that

6 a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

1 4. The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further
2 comprising a human body detection section that detects a user located
3 in the vicinity of said image processing apparatus, wherein when a
4 human body has not been detected by said human body detection section
5 for a period of time longer than a predetermined time, said mode
6 switching section switches said operation mode from said personal
7 operation mode into said public operation mode with the state that
8 a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

1 5. The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further
2 comprising a setting information acquisition section that acquires
3 setting information associated with each user, wherein said operation
4 mode setting section sets said personal operation mode based on said
5 setting information associated with the user authenticated in said
6 user authentication section.

1 6. The image processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 said ID information cooperates with login IDs in a network that can
3 be connected to said image processing apparatus, wherein said image
4 processing apparatus further comprises a personal information
5 processing section that performs the processing of personal
6 information relevant to the users corresponding to said ID information
7 existing on said network based on said ID information.

1 7. A personal information management program adapted to be stored

2 in a computer-readable medium so as to perform the management of
3 personal information in an image processing apparatus shared by a
4 plurality of users, said personal information management program
5 serving to make a computer execute:

6 a user authentication step that acquires ID information to
7 identify each user from among a plurality of users, and performing
8 user authentication based on said ID information:

9 an operation mode setting step that selectively sets, as an
10 operation mode that sets a work environment for operation inputs,
11 between an personal operation mode to permit each user to operate
12 individually and a public operation mode to permit an indefinite number
13 of users to operate; and

14 a mode switching step that, when a user is authenticated in
15 said user authentication step, switches said operation mode from said
16 public operation mode into said personal operation mode for the
17 authenticated user.

1 8. A personal information management program as set forth in claim
2 7, wherein in said mode switching step, said operation mode is switched
3 from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode
4 based on a prescribed condition with the state that a current operation
5 mode is set to said personal operation mode.

1 9. The personal information management program as set forth in
2 claim 7, wherein in said mode switching step, when ID information
3 is not acquired for a period of time longer than a predetermined time
4 in said user authentication step, said operation mode is switched

5 from said personal operation mode into said public operation mode
6 with the state condition that a current operation mode is set to said
7 personal operation mode.

1 10. The personal information management program as set forth in
2 claim 7, further comprising a human body detection step for detecting
3 a user located in the vicinity of said image processing apparatus,
4 wherein in said mode switching step, when a human body has not been
5 detected in said human body detection step for a period of time longer
6 than a predetermined time, said operation mode is switched from said
7 personal operation mode into said public operation mode with the state
8 that a current operation mode is set to said personal operation mode.

1 11. The personal information management program as set forth in
2 claim 7, further comprising a setting information acquisition step
3 that acquires setting information associated with each user, wherein
4 in said operation mode setting step, said personal operation mode
5 is set based on said setting information associated with the user
6 authenticated in said user authentication step.

1 12. The personal information management program as set forth in
2 claim 7, wherein said ID information cooperates with login IDs in
3 a network that can be connected to said image processing apparatus,
4 wherein said personal information management program further
5 comprises a personal information processing step that performs the
6 processing of personal information relevant to the users corresponding
7 to said ID information existing on said network based on said ID

8 information.